



NEWS RELEASE

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Public Invited to Comment on Publication of Appeal Court Opinions

Supreme Court Committee Recommends Changes To Current Rule, Practices Used by State Appellate Courts

San Francisco—The public is invited to comment on draft proposals that would clarify the criteria that justices of the state's Courts of Appeal should consider in deciding whether to certify their opinions for publication.

As California's intermediate courts of review, the Courts of Appeal issue more than 11,000 written opinions a year. Of those, about 8 percent were published in the most recent fiscal year reported.

Comments are being sought by the Supreme Court Advisory Committee on Rules for Publication of Court of Appeal Opinions, chaired by Supreme Court Justice Kathryn M. Werdegar.

Chief Justice Ronald M. George appointed the 13-member panel last year. The committee is charged with "reviewing the existing standards for the publication of opinions of the Courts of Appeal and with recommending to the Supreme Court whether the criteria or procedures set forth in the rules for publication of these opinions should be changed with regard to the practices of the Courts of Appeal and the Supreme Court."

The committee's draft report includes recommendations that California Rules of Court, rule 976 be amended to provide further clarification concerning the criteria used in deciding whether to publish opinions.

The committee's draft report, with a response form that can be downloaded and submitted by mail or fax, may be viewed at <http://www.courtinfo.ca.gov/invitationstocomment/documents/report-1005.pdf>. Instructions for submitting comments online are located at <http://www.courtinfo.ca.gov/invitationstocomment/acommentform.htm>.

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Public comments will be reviewed by the committee before the panel drafts its final report and recommendations for the Supreme Court's consideration. Comments should be submitted by 5:00 p.m., Friday, January 6, 2006, to the following address:

Attn: Mr. Clifford Alumno
Administrative Office of the Courts
455 Golden Gate Avenue
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All comments received will become part of the public record.

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